

Consultation with Native Village of Nanwalek on Cook Inlet General Permits August 2013

Nanwalek Issues

- nature of discharges and contaminants in subsistence resources are concerns
- the whole coast should be monitored, create monitoring program for coastal communities
- want inspections, sampling, and monitoring done on the rigs
- inspections and sampling should be conducted at least annually, preferably with tribal participation
- compliance should not be self-reported, rigs should not be self-regulated
- fines for violations should be used to pay for monitoring program
- this is an area (in the lower Inlet) that with currents should accumulate chemicals, and sediments should be tested and monitored
- rigs should use non-synthetic (clay based) drilling muds
- tribes lack the means to get the data necessary to defend themselves
- state needs to recognize tribes, tribal interests, and participation in policy development
- ELG's Zero Discharge Exemption for Cook Inlet needs to be revised
- the best available technologies should be mandated
- discharges should be reduced and treated
- mixing zones shouldn't be allowed
- discharge of untreated sewage shouldn't be allowed
- contaminants in discharges have been found in subsistence foods
- want to be involved in Anchorage sewage facility permit review
- want tribal fish consumption and survey considered
- want data on contaminants currently in water, sediments, and subsistence foods
- want collective impacts-20 years of oil and gas, sewage, and shipping traffic considered
- want oil companies to think about what's being dumped and what people are taking in
- want state to put in place a tribal and local governments policy
- concerns about cancers in the communities and whether or not it's connected to rigs
- concerns about Japanese radiation and subsistence foods

Nanwalek Comments

- We can't prove the reduction we've seen in kelp and bidarkis, but we've seen it. We can't prove that oil is coming to our reef and to our food but we eat it.
- If you're here for the economy and the protection of the communities, start protecting sea life.
- That's not a good idea to have them regulate themselves. Who can we look to to help change that?
- Tribes can't afford to hire scientists to get data to dispute oil companies or states. How can tribes help themselves?
- State doesn't even recognize tribes as a special interest. What means do tribes have to defend themselves?

- We should not always be the sacrificed few for the needs of many.
- How do tribes get the data and develop the means to defend themselves?
- The state needs to recognize tribes as a group with great interest in what happens to the water.
- The state needs to reconsider their stance on allowing tribes to participate in policy development. If they don't, people will always but heads. But if tribes help develop the policies they will also help live by them.
- We understand these are the only rigs in the U.S. that are allowed to dump these types of chemicals in the water. And that because of mixing zones there are even more.
- 40 years of drilling and dumping in the Inlet.
- Why hasn't EPA or state mandated at least a gradual implementation of technology to stop dumping this stuff?
- Why are these wells exempt? Technology is developed every day that treats muds and cuttings.
- Mixing zones might be good up there but then it comes down here and settles.
- Why can't EPA say 10% reduction this year and 5% next year until we get to the baseline that everybody else has to work with?
- Can you explain their needs to be dumping untreated sewage- 40-100 million gallons/day? It seems like a high number for one of the most pristine areas, with thousands of fishing boats. You'd think someone would think about that.
- A subsistence study found there were toxins in fish linked to discharges from oil rigs and suddenly it was hushed up because of oil companies being grandfathered in.
- What's total amount of discharge from oil rigs specifically (in Cook Inlet)? About 8 billion gallons/year? And they're able to link a lot of carcinogens like PCBs back to oil rigs?
- Everything up there eventually flushes down to here. It adds insult to injury.
- People coming back with polluted fish. To me that becomes a human rights issue.
- If agencies and governments know this is happening, why are we allowing this?
- My interest in this is to protect my people. I've been asked to do that, so I will. That's why I'm attending this discussion.
- I wish EPA had a stronger hold on what happens.
- How can you do that (ensure protection) without data? How can you consider a permit at all without data? Is EPA going to push to get that data collected sometime? Is EPA going to wait until all the analyses are done?
- If you use data available now, you'd have to wait 5 more years. The types of carcinogens people are ingesting take 5 to 20 years to cause harm. If it takes 20 years to collect data it's already done.
- Jeff Bigler Report (from MMS or BOEMR?) linked contaminants to Nikiski. It used a figure of the palm of your hands as 1 serving and told us we could consume 5 servings of red salmon that size per week. I could eat that in a day. How much fish did you eat here today?
- There needs to be a lot more data collected here and there. A stratified study over a period of time.
- With sewage from Anchorage, Soldotna, and Kenai collectively. And more and more shipping traffic. And oil sheens. We have become experts in oil spills.
- Fines collected from rigs should be used to work with communities, to bring communities together. We feel like we're left out a lot of the time.

- Coastal people are being left out of decision making. We have stuff floating over from Japan. It's frustrating. We just want to be included and be a part of it.
- It's great that you've come here. There should be more of this. More dialogue should happen.
- This is definitely affecting coastal people. Everything dumped there settles here and affects people here more.
- If we had to depend on just the stores the villages would be gone. And this is our home.
- We're left to rely on our surroundings. We don't look at it as a bad thing, but it does get harder.
- Resources are less abundant. The fishing boats are here. We have to share with everybody else.
- It would be nice to be included in some of the decisions that directly affect us.
- Oil rigs have human health impacts to communities. Are they thinking about what they're dumping and what kinds of contaminants people are taking in?
- State still just recognizes tribes as part of the general public. They should put in place a tribal and local governments policy that includes better notification and involvement.
- How can state not even recognize us as persons of special interest? If state wants to have a more cohesive environment, if tribes are included in policy development, they'd live by the system.
- If state would just treat us like EPA does a lot of the problems would be eliminated.
- Tribes don't have the funds to generate the "best science available." We believe toxins are hurting people but we can't pay scientists to help us.
- The state needs to include tribes. If everybody was working together it would alleviate a lot of problems down the road.
- When thinking about issuing a permit in an area, go to those 3 tribes and see what their interests are. Make sure tribal interests are taken into consideration.
- Anything put together on how many people have passed away from cancer here? We often wonder if it's something coming from the rigs. We have no idea what's really going on.
- The whole thing with Japan, that will totally become part of the food chain.
- Go to the store. Hopefully they'll be testing seafood for the next 10-15 years. We're going to be consuming our traditional foods.
- Our life, what we depend on, what our life is based on, we share with all the boats out here. We have the nursery for all the kelp in the Cook Inlet area.
- Cook Inlet exemption- try to remove it so we can have fairness with the rest of the world.
- Bring big corporate people here to native communities like this so they can see our faces.
- If you guys are the ones that can help make our lifestyle better in the future, look around and get familiar with our faces.
- If for some reason we start disappearing, don't forget about our faces.
- If you could have done something to prevent that from happening, I hope you make the right decisions. I hope you do because my future depends on it and my children's.